ALETRIS FARINOSA.

Star Grass.

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PLATE L.

I KNOW of no plant which surpasses the Alteris farinosa in genuine, intense and permanent bitterness. Neither aloes, gentian, nor quassia exceed it in the impression produced on the tongue. It has, on account of this property, attracted the observation of some medical men, and may hereafter become an article of more consequence in the Materia Medica. Although the number of trials, hitherto made, are perhaps not sufficient to fix with precision its exact character, yet in a collection of American medicinal vegetables it ought not to pass unnoticed.

This plant grows in most parts of the United States in fields and about the edges of woods, and flowers in June and July. I have found it near Boston on the south, but never to the north of it.